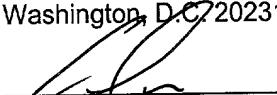


PATENT
Docket No. 15916-249x

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I certify that on 7/13/01, which is the date I am signing this certificate, this correspondence and all attachments mentioned are being deposited in the United States Postal Service "Express Mail to Addressee," under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Craig A. Slavin

Applicant: Thompson et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: July 18, 2001

Title: Catheter Having Improved
Torque Transmission Capability and

Method of Making the Same

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice.

In the Specification:

On page 1, please rewrite the paragraph on lines 2-4 in the following amended form:

This application is a divisional of co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 09/150,833, filed September 10, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 08/902,742, filed July 29, 1997, now abandoned, which is incorporated herein by reference.

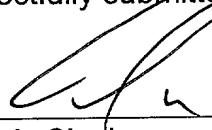
REMARKS

Minor modifications have been made to the specification. Claims 1-26 have been canceled. No claims have been added or amended. Claims 27-49 remain in the application. Early and favorable consideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



Craig A. Slavin
Reg. No. 35,362
Attorney for Applicant

7/18/01

Date

Henricks, Slavin & Holmes LLP
840 Apollo Street, Suite 200
El Segundo, CA 90245
(310) 563-1458
(310) 563-1460 (Facsimile)

**VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO
SHOW CHANGES MADE**

On page 1, the paragraph on lines 2-4 has been amended as follows:

This application is a divisional of co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 09/150,833, filed September 10, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 08/902,742, filed July 29, 1997, now abandoned, which is incorporated herein by reference.